

RESOLUTION
ISOTHERMAL RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSEMBLY TO EXCLUDE
THE APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT HIGHWAY SYSTEM FUNDING FROM THE
NCDOT EQUITY FORMULA

WHEREAS, In 1964, the President's Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) reported to Congress that economic growth in Appalachia would not be possible until the Region's isolation had been overcome

WHEREAS, Congress authorized the construction of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) in the Appalachian Development Act of 1965

WHEREAS, the cost of building highways through Appalachia's mountainous terrain is very high, so the Region has never been served by adequate roads

WHEREAS, the nation's interstate highway system has largely bypassed the Appalachian Region, going through or around the Region's rugged terrain as cost-effectively as possible

WHEREAS, The service area of the Isothermal RPO (McDowell, Rutherford, Polk counties) are firmly rooted in the heart of the Southern Appalachian Region and has been isolated by geographical barriers

WHEREAS, The ARC report was designed to generate economic development in previously isolated areas, supplement the interstate system, connect within the Region as well as to markets in the rest of the nation

WHEREAS, the ADHS program was designed to channel additional funding into the Appalachian Region, not to supplant existing funding.

WHEREAS, In 1998 the Federal Transportation Act known as TEA 21 and subsequent acts began including ADHS funding in North Carolina's minimum guarantee for transportation funding essentially supplanting existing funding

WHEREAS, Because ADHS funding is no longer considered additional money for North Carolina, it must by law be included in the state's equity distribution for highway improvements

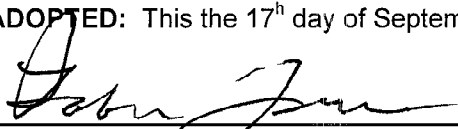
WHEREAS, Completion of the ADHS remains a top priority for the Appalachian Regional Commission

WHEREAS, Under current funding policies, Division 13 and 14's allocation of ADHS money counts toward our division's allotment through the equity formula and as a result, decreases the availability of other funds to our region.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Isothermal Rural Transportation Planning Organization (IRPO), that the


- 1) IRPO concludes that counting the ADHS funding against North Carolina's minimum guarantee and counting the funding received by North Carolina against this region's equity "fair share" violate the spirit and intent of the ADHS legislation
- 2) IRPO respectfully requests the North Carolina General Assembly to exclude the ADHS funding from the NCDOT equity formula in order to complete these remaining corridors to benefit the people of Southern Appalachia and Western North Carolina.
- 3) IRPO respectfully requests the United States Congress to exclude the ADHS funding from the minimum return of transportation funding to the State of North Carolina.
- 4) IRPO requests that all funding of ADHS projects from 1992 to present not count against "equity adjustments" and adjustments be made to current equity calculations to correct the violation of the spirit of the ADHS program.

ADOPTED: This the 17th day of September, 2009.



Bob Jones, Chairman, IRPO TAC

ATTEST:



Joshua King, Secretary, IRPO TAC